

PATENT
USSN: 09/746,615

Docket No.: 1232-4666

REMARKS

Claim Status

Claims 1-30 are pending in this application and have been rejected. Claims 1, 7, 9, 13, 14, 18, 22, 23 and 27 are independent in form.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Squilla et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,898,779 ("Squilla") in view of Shiota et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,625,334 ("Shiota"); claims 9, 10, 18, 19, 27 and 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Jones et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,623,637 ("Jones") in view of Squilla and Shiota; claims 11, 12, 20, 21, 25 and 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Jones in view of Squilla and Shiota further in view of Yoshimura et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,131,162 ("Yoshimura"); claims 13, 22 and 29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Jones in view of Squilla, Shiota and Sono, U.S. Patent No. 5,829,044 ("Sono"); claims 14, 16, 17, 23 and 30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Jones in view of Squilla and Yoshimura; and claims 15 and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Jones in view of Squilla and Yoshimura further in view of Shiota.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the characterization of the pending claims and of the prior art in the stated rejections, respectfully traverses these rejections and respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

Applicant respectfully submits that the references cited by the Examiner, taken individually or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the present invention as claimed.

Specifically, as to claims 1, 7, 9, 13, 18, 22 and 27, contrary to the Examiner's contentions, Applicant submits that Shiota fails to disclose or suggest at least property

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information for defining an image processing method as claimed in the present invention and, as to claims 9, 13, 14, 18, 22, 23 and 27, contrary to the Examiner's contentions, Applicant respectfully submits there is no motivation to combine the teachings of Jones with Squilla.

With respect to claims 1,7, 9, 13, 18, 22 and 27, the present invention includes an information processing system comprising, *inter alia*, property information for defining an image processing method. The property information designates an image output format by providing output specifications for an image. (See Specification, p. 2.) For example, the output specifications may include, among other information, the sheet size, the number of output sheets and an instruction to not output an image with an inconsistent signature examination. (See Specification, p. 18.) Accordingly, the execution of image processing is controlled in accordance with the property information and as a result of discriminating an image alteration.

In contrast, the recording property information disclosed by Shiota refers to "a theme title of recording, the date of recording, a recording frame number, the name of a camera, the name of a photographer, picture location information and any other information relevant to the recording." (Col. 2, lines 39-42.) The recording property information in Shiota is used in automatically determining a file name for image files. (Col. 3, lines 51-64.) Thus, the recording property information of Shiota does not disclose or suggest defining an image processing method by providing an image output format with output specifications as claimed. Furthermore, Shiota does not disclose or suggest that the execution of image processing is controlled in accordance with the property information and as a result of discriminating an image alteration. Even assuming that it is proper to combine Shiota with Squilla, Jones, Yoshimura and/or Sono, none of the references, either individually or in combination, disclose or suggest defining an image processing method by providing an image output format with output specifications as claimed or disclose or suggest that the execution

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of image processing is controlled in accordance with the property information and as a result of discriminating an image alteration.

As to claims 9, 13, 14, 18, 22, 23 and 27, Applicant believes that, contrary to the Examiner's contentions, absent a suggestion or instruction in the prior art to do so, there is no motivation to combine the teachings of Jones with Squilla since one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would not look to Jones, a reference limited to data storage and memory cards, and combine its teachings with Squilla which is directed to a photographic system including a digital camera.

Jones discloses an encrypted data storage card for storing data. Jones does not teach or suggest processing image file data. Applicant believes that one skilled in the art would not look to a reference disclosing an encrypted data storage card when processing image file data. The Examiner has not shown any motivation in the prior art to properly combine teachings from a reference limited to data storage cards with the teachings from a reference directed to a photographic system. Drawing motivation from the claims being examined to so combine prior art is improper. As such, the stated rejections cannot stand.

Accordingly, for at least the stated reasons, the independent claims, and the claims depending therefrom, are believed neither taught nor suggested, and therefore neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of, the prior art, taken alone or in combination..

Dependent Claims

Applicant has not independently addressed the rejections of the dependent claims because Applicant submits that, as the independent claims from which the dependent claims depend are believed allowable for at least the reasons discussed *supra*, the dependent claims are believed allowable for at least similar reasons. Applicant, however, reserves the

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right to address such rejections and present independent bases for allowance of the dependent claims should such response be necessary and appropriate.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the present invention is believed patentably distinct over the art of record and Applicant respectfully requests that the respective rejections be withdrawn and the application be allowed.

If any outstanding issues remain, however, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

AUTHORIZATION

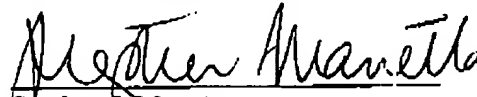
While no fees or extension of time are believed necessary for this Request for Reconsideration, should an extension of time be required for the timely submission of this paper, such extension is hereby petitioned, and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Request for Reconsideration, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4666.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: June 22, 2005

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